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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2012

Mr. Lawrence F. Probst, III
Chairman
U.S. Olympic Committee
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Dear Mr. Probst:

The Olympics provide an opportunity to showcase our national pride. As the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) has proudly noted, it is Americans, not their government, who send athletes to the Olympics. But despite Americans sending these athletes to the Olympics, I was extremely disappointed to learn that they will be outfitted by the Chinese during the opening ceremony for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Not only does the United States have any number of manufacturers capable of outfitting our athletes, they are in a competition with the Chinese that is anything but fair. If gold medals were awarded for dodging international trade laws – China would sweep.

Millions of American jobs have been lost to this unfair competition. Rather than ignoring this issue, the USOC should find a manufacturer from among the dozens of sportswear companies, including Hugo Boss' facility in Cleveland, Ohio. These facilities utilize American workers to produce high-quality and affordable products.

All too often, China has engaged in unfair trade practices such as export subsidies, currency manipulation, and domestic content requirements. China's refusal to adhere to World Trade Organization rules – to which our businesses and workers must conform – continue to stack the deck against American manufacturers. In addition, the Chinese government has done little to promote human rights, protect workers, and meet minimum environmental standards.

The USOC holds its athletes to a high moral and ethical standard, and does not tolerate cheating. But China continues to cheat when it comes to international trade. As we work to achieve a level playing field for American manufacturers and workers, the USOC should act immediately to find a domestic manufacturer for this year's uniforms. I would also like to meet with you to discuss domestic apparel sourcing and urge you to enact policies to ensure that our nation's athletes wear clothing that is Made-in-America in the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator